



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED FOR USING FAKE ID IN CHECK FORGERY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for using an altered identification card in the name of another person to negotiate forged checks.

Richard A. Minnick, 34, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to two years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Minnick** to pay \$23,526 in restitution to his victims.

On Dec. 4, 2003, **Minnick** pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 20, 2003. **Minnick** admitted that he broke into a vacant house in Independence, Mo., in mid-February 2002, stealing a book of checks, among other things. **Minnick** negotiated 20 forged checks, Graves said.

On some checks, Graves explained, **Minnick** rubbed out the correct name and replaced it with his own. On others, he left the correct names and cashed the checks by posing as the victim. He did this, Graves said, by presenting an altered Missouri non-driver's identification card with the victim's name but his own photograph.

On Feb. 27, 2002, Independence police officers arrested **Minnick** after he attempted to negotiate one of the forged checks at Wal-Mart. At that time, Graves said, **Minnick** was in possession of the altered identification card.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was investigated by the United States Secret Service; the Independence, Mo., Police Department; the Gladstone, Mo., Police Department; and the Raytown, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow